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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,978	11/29/2000	Takatoshi Tomooka	JP9-1999-0250US1(8728-455	8979

7590 05/07/2003

Frank Chau, Esq.
F. CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP
Suite 501
1900 Hempstead Turnpike
East Meadow, NY 11554

EXAMINER

ABDULSELAM, ABBAS I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2674	9

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/725,978	TOMOOKA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Abbas I Abdulselam	2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2003 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter et al. (USPN 5889945) in view of Tahara et al. (USPN 6031631).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 25, Porter teaches a host system, which transfers the necessary information to one or more end points allowing the endpoints display. Porter teaches an attendee bar (611) including multiple panels (613) each of which displays an identifier (614). In addition Porter teaches an attendee bar record (702) with respect to a window identifier (707). However, Porter does not specifically teach a control signal output section and an image signal transfer section. Porter on the other hand teaches a signal generation device (337) for the purpose of outputting, and an interface unit (338) allowing the system (300) to communicate by sending and receiving video, audio as well as data signals. Porter also teaches the interface unit is processes other necessary control signals. See col. 5, lines 50-67, Fig 3, col. 4, lines 1-8, Fig 6b, and Fig 7.

In addition, Porter teaches a display device (332) used with a computer system that can be LCD or any other display mechanisms suitable for creating graphic images and alphanumeric

characters. See col. 6, lines 1-5 and Fig 3. Porter further teaches applications being shared between multiple systems and being executed at all of the endpoints. See col. 4, lines 9-20.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the signal generation device (337) and system (300) communication for the purpose of outputting signals and exchanging signals respectively. One would have been motivated in view of Porter that the desired functions of a control signal output section and an image signal transfer section can be equivalently performed by the signal generation device (337) and system communication (300) respectively.

Porter has been described above. However, porter does not teach the use of a window such that it is a unit for transferring an image signal from a host device to a panel having a corresponding ID. Tahara on the other hand teaches an IPU (1108) which receives an image signal from the host computer (1009) that ascertains the cascade of all stations (1001-1004) connected to the cascade system. See Fig 20A.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Porter's videoconferencing to adapt the Tahara's IPU as configured in Fig 20A. One would have been motivated in view of the suggestion in Porter that the IPU along with stations is equivalent to the desired window-panel configuration. The use of IPU helps function multiple image processing system as taught by Tahara et al.

In addition, Tahara teaches that the computer (1109) is connected to station A and the image data read out of the IPU (1008) is written in the memory (150) of all stations. See col. 28, lines 23-33

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 10, Porter teaches a signal generation device, which may be, coupled with system I/O bus 331 along with other elements including display device (323). See Fig 3.

Regarding claim 3, Porter teaches four states of indicators of a panel one of which is a hidden state holding a space for the indicator. See col. See col. 11, lines 1-17 and Fig 6E.

Regarding claims 4-6, 9, 12, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 26-29, Porter teaches a window (612) including an attendee bar (611) that contains multiple panels (613) each of which displays an identifier (614). See Fig 6B. Porter also teaches that each panel can include one or more menus and can be selected, displaying the attendee bar and menu. Porter also teaches that a panel can be a bit map showing the image of the participant. See col. 11, lines 18-27.

Regarding claims 13 and 16, see Fig 3 (302, 303).

Regarding claim 17, Porter teaches the use of a memory controller (322) in connection with a display device (323).

Regarding claim 22, Porter teaches a display device (332) of various types including LCD. See col. 6, lines 1-5.

Regarding claim 23, Porter teaches the use of application specific information, specific controls or commands in connection with the panels. See col. 3, lines 8-13.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered to applicant's disclosure.

The following arts are cited for further reference.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,178,224 to Polichar et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,920,342 to Umeda et al.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Abbas Abdulselam whose telephone number is (703) 305-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached at (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 2600 customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Abbas Abdulselam

Examiner

Art Unit 2674



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600